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INFORMATION REPORT  
CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR. 22 AUG 50

SUBJECT Military Conscription in North Korea

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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1. In early 1950, the North Korean People's Army conscription methods changed somewhat from those which had been in effect earlier. Compulsory conscription was directed against primarily members of the Democratic Youth Alliance, the North Korean Labor Party, the Democratic Party, and the Youth Friendship Party. Younger men particularly were being sought for military service.
2. It was believed that the size of the People's Army had been materially increased by this influx of recruits. It was noted by the civilian population that in spite of this new emphasis on military activity, the People's Army did not hold its usual annual celebration on 2 February, the anniversary of the establishment of the service. No public parades were allowed and observance of the day was confined to army barracks and compounds.
3. A new conscription measure was set to commence on 1 June. As a preliminary step, Military Registration Section had been established in the Bureau of Internal Affairs in each city and country in early August 1949, for the purpose of investigating youths of conscription age. Their work was scheduled to be completed and the draft to begin by 1 June.
4. Originally, conscription regulations ordered that all men between 18 and 35 should be enrolled on active duty and men from 36 to 55 should be enlisted as military workers. This regulation was later amended to require military service only of men between 18 and 26. Students of middle schools and colleges were ordered to receive military training in their schools so that they would be prepared for immediate mobilization in an emergency.
5. Conscripts under the new system were to be sent to special People's Army training centers in Nanam (129-41, 41-42), Hamhung (127-32, 39-54), Wonsan (127-26, 39-10), Pyongyang, and Sariwon (125-44, 38-30). Their training was courses of two periods of a month each, one to be devoted to military exercise and the other to be spent helping local farmers with agricultural work.

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